PARK STREET CHURCH

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SCRIPTURE READERS at 8:30 and 11:00

1. Preparation: Each lesson can be found in Planning Center. Generally, lay readers typically read the first lesson. Read your lesson OUT LOUD several times in the days leading up to Sunday, and look up any words with unfamiliar pronunciation. Understand the passage, and read it in context. Hear and note how the sounds of particular words can bring out the meaning and beauty of the text. We use the English Standard Version (ESV). During the service you will read directly from the large-print pulpit Bible.
2. Attire: the public reading of the word of God is in some sense the MOST weighty and authoritative part of the worship service (even more than the sermon, as we are fallible but the word of God is not). Our attire can help speak to this. Ideally: jacket and tie for men (white shirt is best), and analogous attire for women – a dress, skirt and nice top, etc). It should be clear we do not take the public proclamation of scripture casually – it is absolutely a “big deal.”
3. Arrive 15 minutes before the service, to **check the pulpit Bible to ensure one of the black marker ribbons is set to your reading**. Note exactly where the reading begins and ends. If you are reading the first lesson, open the Bible to it. You may join the ministers for prayer before the service.
4. As the *Life of the Church* portion of the service concludes, immediately go up to a side chair directly adjacent to the pulpit as the elder or minister is taking his seat, before the anthem or hymn begins. Make sure you check what is included in the *Life of the Church* that day – sometimes it is only the welcome and announcements. (**If there is no anthem or hymn**, then proceed directly the pulpit and begin to read. In this case it’s important to be sitting in a front pew; you should be starting to walk as the elder is saying “now let us continue to worship God” -don’t wait!) When there is an anthem, remain in your seat until the anthem ends.
5. If you are wearing a mask, remove it as you walk up into the pulpit. DO NOT TOUCH THE MICROPHONE. Do not say “good morning” or introduce yourself. Simply **introduce the reading using the exact wording on page 2 of this document**, pause for a few seconds to give people a chance to turn there, and then begin reading. You will not mention the specific verses nor a page number; these are printed in the bulletin. The central goal is to draw attention not to ourselves but to the Word of God, to convey something of its authority and weight, and to proclaim it with vigor.
6. Read clearly and slowly, in a strong voice, so that those in the sanctuary could hear you even without a microphone. You do *not* need to make eye contact as if you were giving a speech; this is a reading after all, and the emphasis is on faithfully proclaiming the text. Emphasize verbs, pause at appropriate moments, and let your speech inflection convey the richness and beauty of the text, without letting it become an overdone “dramatic reading. Your hands can be at your sides, or holding the sides of the desk – just don’t “talk with your hands.”
7. Try to read in such a fashion that the end of the reading seems to fall naturally. It shouldn’t sound ‘abrupt’ like you stopped in the middle of something. At the end of the reading, pause for 1-2 seconds, and then say, “**The Word of the Lord**” (to which the congregation responds, “Thanks be to God.”) Say these words exactly, and say them deliberately and **slowly**, as a proclamation. You can go back to your pew as soon as your are done reading. *NB: When reading a psalm, generally we will NOT conclude with “The Word of the Lord” at the end. Be on the lookout for confirmatory instructions in this case.*

6/3/21 1.6

Genesis “A reading from the Book of Genesis.”

Exodus “A reading from the Book of Exodus.”

Leviticus “A reading from the Book of Leviticus.”

Numbers “A reading from the Book of Numbers.”

Deuteronomy “A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.”

Joshua “A reading from the Book of Joshua.”

Judges “A reading from the Book of Judges.”

Ruth “A reading from the Book of Ruth.”

1 Samuel “A reading from the First Book of Samuel.”

2 Samuel “A reading from the Second Book of Samuel.”

1 Kings “A reading from the First Book of the Kings.”

2 Kings “A reading from the Second Book of the Kings.”

1 Chronicles “A reading from the First Book of Chronicles.”

2 Chronicles “A reading from the Second Book of Chronicles.”

Ezra “A reading from the Book of Ezra.”

Nehemiah “A reading from the Book of Nehemiah.”

Esther “A reading from the Book of Esther.”

Job “A reading from the Book of Job.”

Psalms “Hear now a Psalm of [David, praise, Ascents, etc.]”

{do not read the printed introduction as part of the actual psalm. Use it only to determine how the Psalm should be introduced, using the formula above. **The author takes precedence** if there are multiple headings. Therefore a psalm that says, “A psalm of ascents, of Solomon” would be introduced “Hear now a psalm of Solomon”}

Proverbs “A reading from the Book of Proverbs.”

Ecclesiastes “A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes.”

Song of Solomon “A reading from the Song of Solomon.”

Isaiah “A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.”

Jeremiah “A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.”

Lamentations “A reading from the Lamentations of Jeremiah.”

Ezekiel “A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel.”

Daniel “A reading from the Prophet Daniel.”

Hosea “A reading from the Prophet Hosea.”

Joel “A reading from the Prophet Joel.”

Amos “A reading from the Prophet Amos.”

Obadiah “A reading from the Prophet Obadiah.”

Jonah “A reading from the Prophet Jonah.”

Micah “A reading from the Prophet Micah.”

Nahum “A reading from the Prophet Nahum.”

Habakkuk “A reading from the Prophet Habakkuk.”

Zephaniah “A reading from the Prophet Zephaniah.”

Haggai “A reading from the Prophet Haggai.”

Zechariah “A reading from the Prophet Zechariah.”

Malachi “A reading from the Prophet Malachi.”

**THE NEW TESTAMENT**

Matthew “A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.”

Mark “A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.”

Luke “A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.”

John “A reading from the Gospel according to John.”

Acts “A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.”

Romans “A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.”

1 Corinthians “A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.”

2 Corinthians “A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.”

Galatians “A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.”

Ephesians “A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.”

Philippians “A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.”

Colossians “A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.”

1 Thessalonians “A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.”

2 Thessalonians “A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.”

1 Timothy “A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.”

2 Timothy “A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.”

Titus “A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.”

Philemon “A reading from Paul’s letter to Philemon.”

Hebrews “A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.”

James “A reading from the letter of James.”

1 Peter “A reading from the first letter of Peter.”

2 Peter “A reading from the second letter of Peter.”

1 John “A reading from the first letter of John.”

2 John “A reading from the second letter of John.”

3 John “A reading from the third letter of John.”

Jude “A reading from the letter of Jude.”

Revelation “A reading from the Revelation to John”